

**BERRIEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**Board Meeting Minutes**  
**May 5, 2022**

**CHAIRMAN TO CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER:**

Chairperson R. McKinley Elliott called the regular night meeting to order at 6:01 P.M. at the MSU Extension Office, 1737 Hillandale Road, Benton Harbor, Michigan.

**INVOCATION:**

Pastor Roger Schaus, 12 Corners Community Church, Benton Harbor, Michigan gave the invocation.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:**

Michigan State University Extension District 13 Director Julie Pioch led us in the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States of America.

**ROLL CALL:**

The Chair instructed the Clerk to take a roll call with the following results:

11 PRESENT: Rayonte Bell, Jim Curran, Teri Sue Freehling, Robert Harrison, Jon Hinkelman, Michael Majerek, Ezra Scott, David Vollrath, Julie Wuerfel, Mamie Yarbrough and R. McKinley Elliott.

0 ABSENT.

**APPROVE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 28, 2022 MEETING:**

Commissioner Scott moved and supported by Commissioner Majerek, to approve the BOC regular meeting minutes of April 28, 2022. Motion carried and no nays.

**COMMUNICATION(S):** None.

**INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:**

Administrator Brian Dissette introduced Julie Pioch, Michigan State University Extension (MSUE) District 13 Director.

**REQUISITION REVIEW:**

Executive Administrative Assistant Annette Christie presented the requisitions to the Board for their review and discussion.

**PRESENTATION – MSU Extension (MSUE) & Southwest Michigan Research and Extension Center Staff:**

MSUE District 13 Director Julie Pioch, welcomed everyone here today and spoke about the Michigan State University Extension and introduced her staff.

Office Manager Jaime Styburski, 4-H Program Coordinator Kelly Stelter, Senior Extension Educator Deb Barrett, Vegetable Crops Educator Ben Phillips and AABI Educator Mike Reinke discussed their departments.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING RESOLUTIONS – Public comments at this portion of the meeting must be related to resolutions listed on today’s agenda only. Those speaking during public comments may do so no longer than two minutes and shall identify themselves by name and city, township, or village. (Article III, 3.9B-C). The public should refer to the resolution # that they are commenting on as a part of their comments:** None.

**CONSENT CALENDAR:**

Commissioner Wuerfel moved and supported by Commissioner Scott, to approve today’s Consent Calendar as presented:

<u>Resolutions #</u>	<u>Description</u>
F2205029	Approve Weekly Bills
*B2205076	Approve Requisition List
A2205260	West Michigan Guardianship for services
P2205261	Complement Change Juvenile Center
P2205266	Emocha Mobile Health agreement
F2205269	MDOT Signature Authorization Berrien Bus
A2205272	Authorize speed study

\*Commissioner Freehling abstained on Resolution #B2205076 on Requisition #58403 for REV in the amount \$48,580.75 in abundance of caution.

The Chair instructed the Clerk to call the roll with the following results:

11 YEAS: Curran, \*Freehling, Harrison, Hinkelman, Majerek, Scott, Vollrath, Wuerfel, Yarbrough, Bell and Elliott.

Motion carried, no nays.

**ADDED RESOLUTION(S):** None.

**COMMITTEE REPORT(S) – Finance Committee:**

The Finance Committee presented their Committee Report. Discussion was held. Parent Committee minutes are available at [www.berriencounty.org](http://www.berriencounty.org).

**COMMISSIONER REPORT(S):**

The Commissioners presented their outside committee reports.

**ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:**

Administrator Disette gave his Administrator's Report.

**GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS - Those speaking during public comments may do so no longer than two minutes and shall identify themselves by name and city, township, or village. (Article III, 3.9B-C):**

Jerry Sirk, Benton Charter Township, spoke about the Masonic Lodge and a member of the lodge was selected District Mason of the year.

George Lucas stated he is a candidate for State Representative for the 38<sup>th</sup> District and spoke about himself.

Adolf Pelzer, Hagar Township, spoke about the BOC's conference room and night meetings.

Annie Brown stated she is a candidate for State Representative for the 38<sup>th</sup> District and spoke about herself.

Tony Benhart, Sodus Township, asked when the Administrator's evaluation will take place. He discussed the changes at Animal Control. He spoke about the Human Resources Director and Personnel & Human Services Committee being a possible conflict.

Commissioner Jon Hinkelman, thanked MSUE for their presentation and for their services.

Commissioner Ezra Scott, thanked Sheriff Paul Bailey and his staff for attending the BOC meetings.

Sheriff Paul Bailey spoke about Animal Control.

Administrator Brian Disette gave an update on Animal Control.

Commissioner Robert Harrison spoke about Administrator Dissette's evaluation that was given to him in January and February. He responded to the comments regarding Human Resources Director and Personnel & Human Services Committee.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

Commissioner Scott asked about the status of the Interim Health Officer/Director position. Administrator Dissette gave an update on the interview process.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS/REMINDERS:**

Chairperson Elliott asked Administrator Dissette and Annette Christie to review the next two weeks schedule as follows:

- May 12, 2022 – Special Meeting of the Board of Commissioners 8:35 A.M. with Committee meetings being held at 9:15 A.M. and the regular Board of Commissioners meeting at 10:30 A.M.
- May 19, 2022 – Special Meeting of the Board of Commissioners 8:35 A.M. with Committee meetings to follow (Time to be Determined) and regular Board of Commissioners meeting at 10:30 A.M.

Administrator Dissette announced his son got two home runs.

Sheriff Bailey announced his grandson pitched a no hitter game.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:47 P.M.

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R. McKinley Elliott, Chairperson

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Sharon J. Tyler, County Clerk

***Minutes are to be approved at the next BOC meeting.***